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“When public safety collides with the collection of evidence, we will choose public safety. Federal agents properly and safely resolved an investigative dilemma. How far do we let a criminal scheme develop? How far do we let a surveilled criminal go? The answer is ..., ‘Not too far.’” U.S. Attorney Sheldon J. Sperling

## NEWS RELEASE

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**MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA** - Sheldon J. Sperling, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, announced today TYLOR HIX, age 21, of Muskogee County, Oklahoma, pled guilty to Possession of a Machine Gun, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. Section 922(o).

“Charges arose from an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. On March 29, 2007, HIX was in possession of a machine gun,” stated U.S. Attorney Sheldon J. Sperling.

“Federal agents properly and safely resolved an investigative dilemma. How far do we let a criminal scheme develop? How far do we let a surveilled criminal go? The answer is . . . , ‘Not too far.’”

“Here a talented ATF Special Agent infiltrated a bank robbery conspiracy. The lead suspect sought automatic weaponry. He wanted to rob the Armstrong Bank in Keyes, Oklahoma. The machine gun, an AK-47, was delivered as requested. The agents didn’t let the prohibited weapon out of their sight.”

“We often have to weigh public safety with the need to gather more evidence. If we stop a criminal scheme, the defendant may claim he wasn’t really going to go through with it. If agents let him continue and something bad happens, the agents will be blamed. We won’t willingly let an innocent person, much less a bank teller, look at the business end of a machine gun. Public safety is far more important than gathering more evidence.”

“The Honorable Steven P. Shreder, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, in Muskogee, presided. Judge Shreder accepted the defendant’s guilty plea, found his plea to be voluntary, found him mentally competent, found him guilty, and ordered the completion of a presentence report. Sentencing will be scheduled following its completion. The defendant is in the custody of the United States Marshal Service.”

“The statutory range of punishment is up to 10 years imprisonment and/or up to \$250,000.00 in fines,” stated U.S. Attorney Sperling. “A preliminary calculation suggests a permissible non-parolable federal sentencing guideline range of 33 – 41 months in federal prison.”

“Assistant United States Attorney Ryan M. Roberts admirably represented the government. The defendant is represented by Gary Richardson and Kevin Adams, both of Tulsa.”

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